

ILLINOIS FARM REPORT



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
<http://www.nass.usda.gov>

RELEASED: APRIL 4, 2006 IFR-06-05

VOL. 27, NO. 5

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The staff of the Illinois Field Office would like to thank all of the Illinois farmers and ranchers that responded to the March Crops/Stocks Survey, the March Hogs and Pigs Survey, the March Milk Production Survey and the January Sheep and Lambs Survey.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2006

Farmers in Illinois intend to plant 11.4 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2006, down six percent from the acres planted in 2005. Acreage planted to corn since 1997 has ranged from a low of 10.6 million in 1998 to a record high of 12.1 million for 2005. Fieldwork has been limited recently due to above normal precipitation received during March. The precipitation has definitely helped topsoil moisture conditions around the state, but subsoil moisture levels are still low.

This crop year begins with **soybean producers intending to plant** 10.1 million acres, up 600 thousand acres from last year. Acreage planted to soybeans over the last ten years has ranged from a low of 9.5 million in 2005 to a high of 10.7 million in 2001. Soybean acreage in Illinois is expected to increase in 2006 driven by the cost advantage of growing soybeans over corn due to the high cost of fuel and nitrogen fertilizer. Additionally, an increase in acreage planted to winter wheat last fall is anticipated to lead to an increase in double crop soybean acreage.

Farmers seeded an estimated 900 thousand acres to **winter wheat** last fall, up 43 percent from the 630 thousand seeded in 2004. This estimate increased 40 thousand acres from the first estimate in December. As of March 26, the winter wheat crop was rated 12 percent excellent, 55 percent good, 30 percent fair, 2 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor.

PLANTED ACREAGE - PRINCIPAL CROPS

Crop	Illinois		United States	
	2005	Indicated 2006	2005	Indicated 2006
	Thousand acres			
Corn - All purposes	12,100	11,400	81,759	78,019
Soybeans	9,500	10,100	72,142	76,895
Winter Wheat ^{1/}	630	900	40,433	41,404
Sorghum - All purposes	85	85	6,454	6,483
Oats	60	70	4,246	4,324
All Hay ^{2/}	730	790	61,649	61,478

^{1/} Includes acreage sown preceding fall.

^{2/} Hay acres for harvest.

(Continued on page 2)

ACREAGE BY DISTRICTS - ILLINOIS 2005 PLANTED & 2006 INTENTIONS

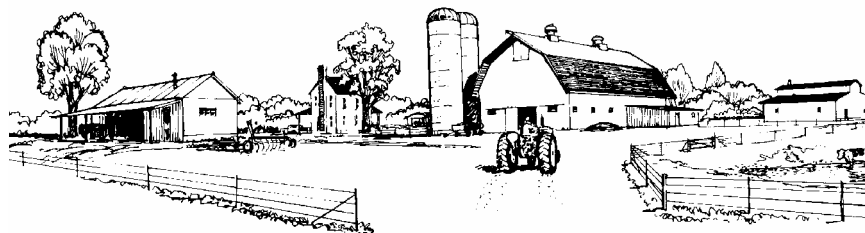
District and State	Corn		Soybeans		Wheat	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	Thousand acres					
Northwest	1,963	1,821	991	1,117	22	35
Northeast	1,127	1,043	762	866	32	47
West	1,155	1,095	885	929	27	54
Central	1,692	1,603	1,201	1,255	22	49
East	1,667	1,561	1,334	1,415	40	69
W. Southwest	1,697	1,631	1,225	1,303	92	121
E. Southeast	1,612	1,522	1,557	1,624	119	153
Southwest	563	526	820	836	199	266
Southeast	624	598	725	755	77	106
ILLINOIS	12,100	11,400	9,500	10,100	630	900

UNITED STATES PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2006

Corn growers intend to plant 78.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2006, down five percent from 2005 and four percent below 2004. If realized, this will be the lowest corn acreage since 2001 when 75.7 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is down from last year in most states as producers intend to switch to other less input intensive crops due to high fertilizer and fuel costs. Dry conditions also contributed to lower corn planting intentions in the southern Great Plains. **Soybean** producers intend to plant 76.9 million acres in 2006, up seven percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area on record. Acreage increases are expected in all growing areas, except in the central and southern Atlantic Coast States and the southern Great Plains. The largest acreage increase is in North Dakota, where record high soybean yields last year and high input costs have some farmers shifting

acreage from other crops to soybeans. Large increases in soybean acreage are also expected across the Corn Belt, including 600,000 more acres in Illinois and 500,000 more acres in Indiana.

All wheat planted area is expected to total 57.1 million acres, down slightly from 2005. If realized, this will be the lowest acreage since 1972. Winter wheat planted area for the 2006 crop is 41.4 million acres, up two percent from last year. Of the total, about 29.8 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 7.42 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.22 million acres are White Winter. The 2006 other spring wheat planted acreage is expected to total 13.9 million, down one percent from 2005. Of the total, about 13.2 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Intended Durum wheat planted area is 1.83 million acres, down 34 percent from the previous year. If realized, this will be the lowest Durum wheat acreage since 1961.



MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Corn stocks in Illinois on March 1, 2006, are estimated at 1.22 billion bushels, three percent above March 1, 2005. The December-February disappearance totaled 474.7 million bushels, virtually unchanged from the same period a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 662.0 million bushels, were up 17 percent from a year earlier and accounted for 54 percent of the state total. On-farm stocks were down ten percent from March 1, 2005 to 560 million bushels. **Soybean stocks** are estimated at 299.7 million bushels, 32 percent above last year's March 1 total of 227.9 million bushels. The December-February disappearance totaled 145.4 million bushels, 23 percent below a year earlier. On-farm stocks, at 145 million bushels, were up 12 percent from a year earlier and accounted for 48 percent of the total stocks. Off-farm stocks increased 58 percent from last year and totaled 154.7 million bushels. **Wheat stocks** are estimated at 16.9 million bushels for March 1. This is a 20 percent increase from last year's total of 14.1 million bushels. Off-farm stocks, at 16.0 million bushels, accounted for 95 percent of the state total.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 6.99 billion bushels, up three percent from March 1, 2005. Of the total stocks, 4.06 billion bushels are stored on farms, down two percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.93 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago. The December 2005 - February 2006 indicated disappearance is 2.83 billion bushels, compared with 2.70 billion bushels during the same period last year. **Soybeans stored in all positions** on March 1, 2006 totaled 1.67 billion bushels, up 21 percent from March 1, 2005. This is the largest March 1 stocks level on record, exceeding the previous record set in 1999 by one percent. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at a record high 872 million bushels, up ten percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 797 million bushels, are up 36 percent from last March and are also at a record high level. Indicated disappearance for the December 2005 - February 2006 quarter totaled 834 million bushels, down ten percent from the same period a year earlier. **All wheat stored in all positions** on March 1, 2006 totaled 972 million bushels, down one percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 256 million bushels, down 16 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 716 million bushels, are up five percent from a year ago. The December 2005 - February 2006 indicated disappearance is 457 million bushels, up three percent from the same period a year earlier.

GRAIN AND HAY STOCKS - MARCH 1

Crop and position 1/	Illinois		United States	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Thousand bushels				
Corn				
On farms	620,000	560,000	4,137,000	4,055,000
Off farms	564,239	661,969	2,619,334	2,932,178
Total	1,184,239	1,221,969	6,756,334	6,987,178
Soybeans				
On farms	130,000	145,000	795,000	872,000
Off farms	97,899	154,740	586,364	796,555
Total	227,899	299,740	1,381,364	1,668,555
All Wheat				
On farms	1,500	900	304,710	256,000
Off farms	12,600	15,979	679,681	716,240
Total	14,100	16,879	984,391	972,240
Oats				
On farms	2/	2/	43,500	41,900
Off farms	503	290	38,946	32,812
Total	2/	2/	82,446	74,712
Sorghum				
On farms	2/	2/	33,400	25,900
Off farms	1,253	1,956	170,122	166,939
Total	2/	2/	203,522	192,839

1/ Off farm stocks include stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

2/ Not published.

HOGS AND PIGS

The number of hogs and pigs in Illinois on March 1, 2006 was 4.05 million, one percent more than were on hand on March 1, 2005 and December 1, 2005. Breeding hogs on hand March 1, 2006 were estimated at 420 thousand head, two percent less than a year earlier, and market hogs, at 3.63 million head, were up two percent.

The pig crop from December 2005 through February 2006 was 1.755 million, six percent below the same period a year earlier. There were 195 thousand sows that farrowed, down seven percent from a year earlier. The litter rate for the quarter was 9.0 pigs saved per litter, up slightly compared to the previous quarter's rate of 8.85.

Farrowing intentions for the March through May quarter of 2006 is 210 thousand, unchanged from those farrowed during this period a year earlier. The first estimate of intentions for the June through August quarter of 2006 is for 205 thousand sows to farrow, down two percent from the previous year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2006 was 60.1 million head. This was up one percent from March 1, 2005, but down two percent from December 1, 2005. Breeding inventory, at 6.03 million head, was up one percent from last year and up slightly from the

previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was up one percent from last year, but down two percent from last quarter. The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head but raised by contractees accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

The December 2005 through February 2006 U.S. pig crop, at 25.7 million head, was up one percent from 2005 and up two percent from 2004. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, up slightly from both 2004 and 2005. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the December 2005 through February 2006 period, compared to 8.94 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1 - 99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the March through May 2006 quarter, up one percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2004 and 2005. Intended farrowings for June through August 2006, at 2.92 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up one percent from 2004.

HOGS & PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBERS, MARCH 1, 2005-2006

	Illinois			Iowa			United States		
	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Breeding	430	420	98	1,080	1,100	102	5,941	6,025	101
Market	3,570	3,630	102	15,020	15,200	101	53,757	54,079	101
Under 60 lbs.	1,360	1,280	94	4,330	4,670	108	19,667	19,838	101
60-119 lbs.	840	870	104	4,230	4,150	98	13,087	13,114	100
120-179 lbs.	760	800	105	3,490	3,440	99	11,360	11,317	100
180 lbs. & over	610	680	111	2,970	2,940	99	9,644	9,811	102
Total	4,000	4,050	101	16,100	16,300	101	59,699	60,104	101

HOGS & PIGS: FARROWINGS & PIG CROP, 2005-2006

	Illinois			Iowa			United States		
	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Sows Farrowing									
Dec.-Feb. 1/	210	195	93	440	455	103	2,835	2,840	100
Mar.-May	210	210 2/	100	440	460 2/	105	2,882	2,896 2/	101
Jun.-Aug.	205	205 2/	100	460	470 2/	102	2,918	2,923 2/	100
Sep.-Nov. 1/	210	200	95	460	455	99	2,888	2,888	100
Pig Crop									
Dec.-Feb. 1/	1,869	1,755	94	3,916	4,095	105	25,343	25,654	101
Sep.-Nov. 1/	1,859	1,770	95	4,094	4,095	100	25,881	26,080	101
Pigs Per Litter	Number			Number			Number		
Dec.-Feb. 1/	8.90	9.00	--	8.90	9.00	--	8.94	9.03	--
Sep.-Nov. 1/	8.85	8.85	--	8.90	9.00	--	8.96	9.03	--

1/ December and September through November of prior year.

2/ Intentions.

Illinois Farm Report (ISSN 0273-8643) is published monthly in February, March, May, June, August, September, November and December; twice in January, April, July and October by the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service, Room 54, Department of Agriculture Bldg., 801 Sangamon Ave., Springfield, Illinois 62702. For information on subscribing, send request to the above address. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois.

Postmaster: Send Address Change to Illinois Farm Report, P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9283.

WOOL PRODUCTION

Illinois wool production in 2005 totaled 385,000 pounds, 20,000 pounds below production in 2004. The number of sheep and lambs shorn in 2005 was 57,000, down three thousand from the previous year. The average price per pound for wool, at \$0.35, was up \$0.09 from 2004. Value of wool production increased to \$135,000 from \$105,000 in 2004.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2005 was 37.2 million pounds, down 400,000 pounds from 2004. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, the same as 2004. The average price paid for wool sold in 2005 was \$0.71 per pound for a total value of \$26.3 million, down from \$29.9 million in 2004.

WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE, 2004-2005

State	Illinois		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
Sheep shorn (000) head	60.0	57.0	5,073.0	5,072.0
Weight/fleece (pounds)	6.8	6.8	7.4	7.3
Production (000 lbs.)	405	385	37,622	37,232
Price/pound (dollars)	0.26	0.35	0.80	0.71
Value (000 dollars)	105	135	29,921	26,272

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Illinois during February 2006 totaled 160 million pounds, one percent more than February 2005. Production per cow averaged 1540 pounds, 40 pounds above February 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in Illinois was 104,000 head, 1,000 head less than February 2005.

Milk production in the U.S. during February 2006 totaled 14.28 billion pounds, up six percent from February 2005. Production per cow averaged 1,571 pounds, 67 pounds above February 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. was 9.09 million head, 92,000 head more than February 2005.

MILK PRODUCTION: ILLINOIS & UNITED STATES, FEBRUARY 2005-2006

		February					
		Illinois			United States		
		2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005
Milk Production:							
Number of milk cows	Head (000)	105	104	99	8,996	9,088	101
Milk production per cow	Lbs.	1,500	1,540	103	1,504	1,571	104
Total milk production	Mil. lbs.	158	160	101	13,530	14,275	106

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"Printed by authority of the State of Illinois" 4/4/06, 3,350, 1399

